

Docket No. 338520-5174
US Appn. No. 10/008,509

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A segmented arm support apparatus for attachment to a surgical retractor, comprising:

an articulating arm having a plurality of segments, each segment of the same size and shape, each segment having an outer wall and an inner surface with a passage extending through each segment, the outer wall of a first segment in mating relationship with the inner surface of a second segment, each segment being formed of a material with high stiffness coated with a high friction plating material;

a cable extending through the passage of each segment;

a manual device for variably tightening the cable, thereby causing the mating segments to be brought into tight frictional engagement and compressing the plating material; and

a tissue stabilization device attached to the articulating arm, the stabilization device being lockable upon tightening the cable, wherein the stabilization device is removably attached to the segmented arm support apparatus, and

further including a movable socket to receive the stabilization device, wherein the movable socket is slidable along a plunger attached to an end of the cable and wherein the movable socket is biased against the plunger by a spring.

2. (original) The segmented arm support apparatus of claim 1, wherein each segment is defined by a convex outer wall and a concave inner surface.

3. (original) The segmented arm support apparatus of claim 2, wherein the convex outer wall of the first segment engages the concave inner surface of the second segment.

4. (previously canceled)